

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-of-sale terminal, comprising:
2
3 determining a monetary value;
4 allocating a portion of a ticket, the portion being based on the monetary value;
5 outputting a ticket identifier that identifies the ticket and a portion identifier that
6 identifies the allocated portion of the ticket; and
7 storing the ticket identifier and the portion identifier.

1 2. The method of claim 1, in which the step of determining a monetary value
2 comprises:
3 determining a monetary value based on an amount of change due for a purchase.

1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 selecting the ticket from a plurality of tickets.

1 4. The method of claim 3, in which the step of selecting the ticket from a plurality of
2 tickets comprises:
3 selecting a ticket having an unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary
4 value.

1 5. The method of claim 3, in which the step of selecting the ticket from a plurality of
2 tickets comprises:

3 determining a set of tickets that each have an unallocated portion at least as great
4 as the monetary value; and
5 selecting a ticket from the set of tickets which has a minimal unallocated portion.

1 6. An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a
2 point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

3 a storage device; and
4 a processor connected to the storage device,
5 the storage device storing
6 a program for controlling the processor; and
7 the processor operative with the program to:

8 determine a monetary value;
9 allocate a portion of a ticket, the portion being based on the monetary
10 value;
11 output a ticket identifier that identifies the ticket and a portion identifier
12 that identifies the allocated portion of the ticket; and
13 store the ticket identifier and the portion identifier in the storage device.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 6, in which the processor is further operative with the
2 program to:
3 determine a monetary value based on an amount of change due for a purchase.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 6, in which the processor is further operative with the
2 program to:

3 select the ticket from a plurality of tickets.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 8, in which the processor is further operative with the
2 program to:

3 select a ticket having an unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary
4 value.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 8, in which the processor is further operative with the
2 program to:

3 determine a set of tickets that each have an unallocated portion at least as great as
4 the monetary value; and

5 select a ticket from the set of tickets which has a minimal unallocated portion.

1 11. A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-
2 of-sale terminal, comprising:

3 determining a monetary value;

4 allocating a portion of each ticket of a plurality of tickets, the portion of each
5 ticket being associated with a portion of the monetary value;

6 outputting a plurality of ticket identifiers that identify the plurality of tickets and a
7 plurality of portion identifiers that identify the allocated portions of each ticket; and

8 storing the ticket identifiers and the portion identifiers.

1 12. An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a
2 point-of-sale terminal, comprising:
3 a storage device; and
4 a processor connected to the storage device,
5 the storage device storing
6 a program for controlling the processor; and
7 the processor operative with the program to:
8 determine a monetary value;
9 allocate a portion of each ticket of a plurality of tickets, the portion of each
10 ticket being associated with a portion of the monetary value;
11 output a plurality of ticket identifiers that identify the plurality of tickets
12 and a plurality of portion identifiers that identify the allocated portions of each ticket; and
13 store the ticket identifiers and the portion identifiers in the storage device.

1 13. A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-
2 of-sale terminal, comprising:
3 determining an amount of change due for a purchase;
4 determining a monetary value based on the amount of change due;
5 selecting a ticket from a plurality of tickets, the selected ticket having an
6 unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary value;
7 allocating at least a portion of the selected ticket, the portion being based on the
8 monetary value;

9 outputting a ticket identifier that identifies the ticket and a portion identifier that
10 identifies the allocated portion of the selected ticket; and
11 storing the ticket identifier and the portion identifier.

1 14. The method of claim 13, in which the step of determining a monetary value
2 comprises:
3 rounding the amount of change due to a predetermined multiple, thereby
4 generating a rounded change amount; and
5 setting the monetary value equal to the rounded change amount.

1 15. The method of claim 14, in which the step of rounding the amount of change due
2 comprises:
3 rounding down the amount of change due to a predetermined multiple, thereby
4 generating a rounded-down change amount.

1 16. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
2 outputting an offer to exchange a fractional lottery ticket for change due.

1 17. An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a
2 point-of-sale terminal, comprising:
3 a storage device; and
4 a processor connected to the storage device,
5 the storage device storing

6 a program for controlling the processor; and
7 the processor operative with the program to:
8 determine an amount of change due for a purchase;
9 determine a monetary value based on the amount of change due;
10 select a ticket from a plurality of tickets, the selected ticket having an
11 unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary value;
12 allocate at least a portion of the selected ticket, the portion being based on
13 the monetary value;
14 output a ticket identifier that identifies the ticket and a portion identifier
15 that identifies the allocated portion of the selected ticket; and
16 store the ticket identifier and the portion identifier in the storage device.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 17, in which the processor is further operative with the
2 program to:
3 round the amount of change due to a predetermined multiple, thereby generating a
4 rounded change amount; and
5 set the monetary value equal to the rounded change amount.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 18, in which the processor is further operative with the
2 program to:
3 round down the amount of change due to a predetermined multiple, thereby
4 generating a rounded-down change amount.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 17, in which the processor is further operative with the
2 program to:

3 output an offer to exchange a fractional lottery ticket for change due.

1 21. A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-
2 of-sale terminal, comprising:

3 receiving a ticket identifier that identifies a ticket and a portion identifier that
4 identifies an allocated portion of the ticket;

5 determining a prize value of the ticket; and

6 determining a portion of the prize value based on the allocated portion of the
7 ticket.

1 22. An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a
2 point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

3 a storage device; and

4 a processor connected to the storage device,

5 the storage device storing

6 a program for controlling the processor; and

7 the processor operative with the program to:

8 receive a ticket identifier that identifies a ticket and a portion identifier

9 that identifies an allocated portion of the ticket;

10 determine a prize value of the ticket; and

11 determine a portion of the prize value based on the allocated portion of the
12 ticket.

1 23. A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-
2 of-sale terminal, comprising:
3 determining a monetary value;
4 allocating at least a portion of a ticket, the portion being based on the monetary
5 value;
6 determining a prize value of the ticket; and
7 providing a portion of the prize value based on the allocated portion of the ticket.

1 24. An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a
2 point-of-sale terminal, comprising:
3 a storage device; and
4 a processor connected to the storage device,
5 the storage device storing
6 a program for controlling the processor; and
7 the processor operative with the program to:
8 determine a monetary value;
9 allocate at least a portion of a ticket, the portion being based on the
10 monetary value;
11 determine a prize value of the ticket; and

12 provide a portion of the prize value based on the allocated portion of the
13 ticket.

1 25. A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-
2 of-sale terminal, comprising:
3 maintaining a supply of tickets, each ticket having an unallocated portion thereof;
4 acquiring an additional ticket.

1 26. The method of claim 25, in which the step of acquiring an additional ticket
2 comprises:
3 counting a number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above a first
4 predetermined threshold; and
5 acquiring an additional ticket if the number of tickets having an unallocated
6 portion that is above the first predetermined threshold is below a second predetermined
7 threshold.

1 27. The method of claim 25, in which the step of acquiring an additional ticket
2 comprises:
3 receiving an indication of a requested portion;
4 counting a number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above the
5 requested portion; and
6 acquiring an additional ticket if the number of tickets having unallocated portion
7 that is above the requested portion is below a predetermined threshold.

1 28. The method of claim 25, in which the step of acquiring an additional ticket
2 comprises:
3 acquiring a predetermined number of additional tickets.

1 29. The method of claim 25, further comprising:
2 calculating a sum of the unallocated portions of the tickets.

1 30. The method of claim 29, in which the step of acquiring an additional ticket
2 comprises:
3 acquiring an additional ticket if the calculated sum is below a predetermined
4 threshold.

1 31. An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a
2 point-of-sale terminal, comprising:
3 a storage device; and
4 a processor connected to the storage device,
5 the storage device storing
6 a program for controlling the processor; and
7 the processor operative with the program to:
8 maintain a supply of tickets, each ticket having an unallocated portion
9 thereof; and
10 acquire an additional ticket.

1 32. The apparatus of claim 31, in which the processor is further operative with the
2 program to:

3 count a number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above a first
4 predetermined threshold; and
5 acquire an additional ticket if the number of tickets having an unallocated portion
6 that is above the first predetermined threshold is below a second predetermined threshold.

1 33. The apparatus of claim 31, in which the processor is further operative with the
2 program to:

3 receive an indication of a requested portion;
4 count a number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above the
5 requested portion; and
6 acquire an additional ticket if the number of tickets having unallocated portion
7 that is above the requested portion is below a predetermined threshold.

1 34. The apparatus of claim 31, in which the processor is further operative with the
2 program to:

3 acquire a predetermined number of additional tickets.

1 35. The apparatus of claim 31, in which the processor is further operative with the
2 program to:

3 calculate a sum of the unallocated portions of the tickets.

1 36. The apparatus of claim 35, in which the processor is further operative with the
2 program to:

3 acquire an additional ticket if the calculated sum is below a predetermined
4 threshold.

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